



EPI NEWS

Issue No. 4

Disease Reporting From 8:00 – 5:00 Call 487-3186 After hours Call 201-0804

January 2005

Leon County Health Department

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2965 Municipal Way,
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Roberts and Stevens

1515 Old Bainbridge Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

South Side

872 West Orange Avenue,
Tallahassee, FL 32310

Environmental Health

3401 West Tharpe Street,
Tallahassee FL 32304

For more surveillance
information, see the DOH
Web site at

[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/
Environment/hsee/arbo/in-
dex.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm) or call the

Disease Outbreak
Information Hotline which
offers updates on medical
alert status and
surveillance at
888.880.5782

Hot Topics

INFLUENZA

Flu Shot

The Leon County Health Department has received 1390 additional doses of flu vaccine. This vaccine comes with a more relaxed set of criteria. The vaccine is still recommended for at risk individuals, with the changes noted below.



- Adults 50 years and older;
- Children 6-35 months;
- Individuals with chronic health problems such as heart or lung disease, asthma, diabetes or cancer;
- All household contacts of high-risk individuals;
- All women who will be pregnant during flu season;
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
- Health care workers;
- Care givers of infants under 6 months old

It is not too late to receive flu vaccine. The peak of Florida's flu season is just beginning. Influenza activity in the United States usually peaks during the month of February.

If you are interested in receiving the flu vaccine please call 487-3186 to schedule an appointment.

Pandemics

3 PREREQUISITES FOR A PANDEMIC

- Appearance of new influenza virus with little immunity in the general population and no effective vaccine available.
- Ability of the virus to reproduce in humans and cause disease.
- Efficient human-to-human transmission

AVERTING A PANDEMIC

Eliminate the animal reservoir of the virus through:

- Increase surveillance and quick detection of disease in flocks
 - Immediate destruction of infected animals
 - Increased control measurement for farms
 - Partnerships between public health and the agricultural divisions.
- More Avian Flu over

Sentinel Physician – Week 2 (2005)



Data from 2 local physicians reporting on Influenza sentinel data:

Total Patients Seen – 1,473 with 100% of sentinel providers reporting.

Total Influenza Like Illness (ILI) Seen – 6 (2 - Age 0-4 and 4 - Age 5-24)

We do not have any reports of confirmed cases, at this time.

For more surveillance information, see the DOH Web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/hsee/arbo/index.htm> or call the Disease Outbreak Information Hotline which offers updates on medical alert status and surveillance at 888.880.5782

EPI Reporting

What to report?

Suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases and outbreaks. List of the diseases can be obtained from the Leon County Health Department by calling (850) 488-3186 or http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/surv/lor8_3.pdf

Why Report?

Health care practitioners are very busy people and an individual practitioner may not know what is happening in their community at all times. Reporting of communicable disease makes it possible to prevent further spread of the disease.

Who should report?

All licensed health care practitioner.

When should the report be made?

These reports should be made promptly within 72 hours.

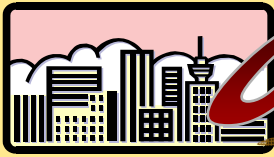
Immediate Notifiable Conditions includes:

- Public health emergencies
- Unusual events/disease, e.g. possible Bioterrorism event/disease, Category A
- And any disease outbreak.

Where to report?

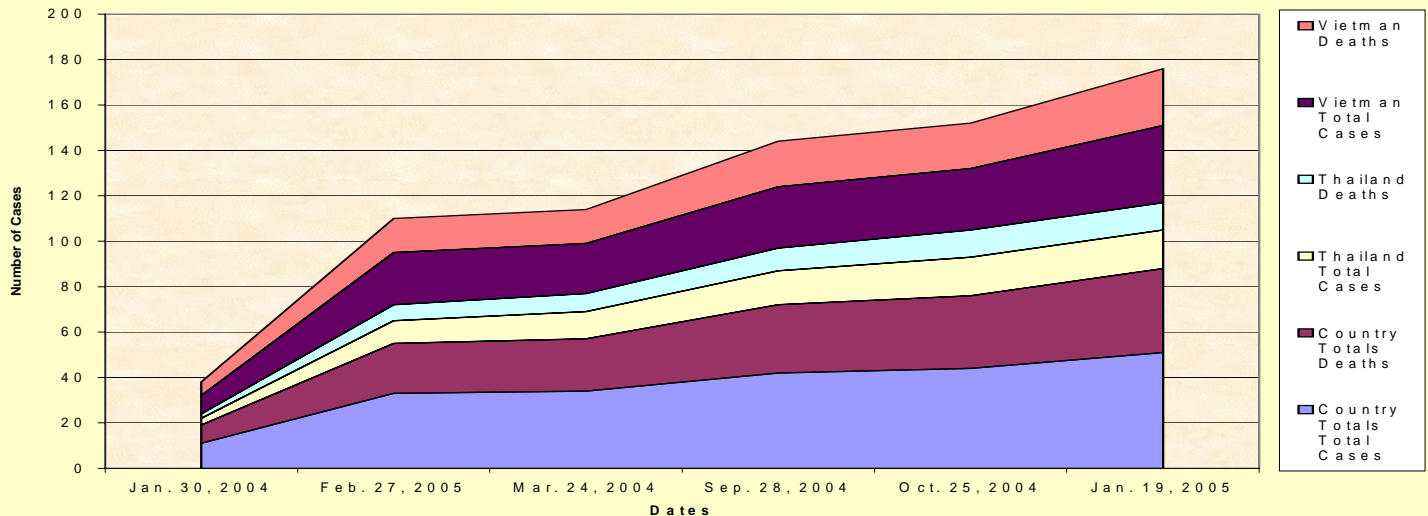
Direct further inquiry to the Leon County Health Department Epidemiology, Nursing Program Specialist, Rebecca D'Alessio at 487-3186.





Community Hotline

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) - WHO Report



Transmission of Influenza A Viruses Between Animals and People

Influenza A viruses are found in many different animals, including ducks, chickens, pigs, whales, horses, and seals. However, certain subtypes of influenza A virus are specific to certain species, except for birds which are hosts to all subtypes of influenza A. Subtypes that have caused widespread illness in people either in the past or the current period are H3N2, H2N2, H1N1, and H1N2. H1N1 and H3N2 subtypes have caused outbreaks in pigs and H7N7 and H3N8 viruses have caused outbreaks in horses. Avian influenza viruses may be transmitted to humans in two main ways:

- Directly from birds or from avian virus-contaminated environments to people.
- Through an intermediate host, such as a pig.

Symptoms of Avian Influenza in Humans

The reported symptoms of avian influenza in humans have ranged from typical influenza-like symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches) to eye infections (conjunctivitis), pneumonia, acute respiratory distress, viral pneumonia, and other severe and life-threatening complications.

Instances of Avian Influenza Infections in Humans

Confirmed instances of avian influenza viruses infecting humans since 1997 include:

- H5N1, Hong Kong, 1997 : 18 people were hospitalized and six of them died.
- H9N2, China and Hong Kong, 1999 : Two children. Both patients recovered, and no additional cases were confirmed.
- H7N2, Virginia, 2002: One person was found to have serologic evidence of infection with H7N2.
- H5N1, China and Hong Kong, 2003 : Two cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) infection occurred among members of a Hong Kong family that had traveled to China. One person recovered, the other died.
- H7N7, Netherlands, 2003 : 89 people were confirmed to have H7N7 influenza virus infection.
- H9N2, Hong Kong, 2003 : H9N2 infection was confirmed in a child in Hong Kong.
- H7N2, New York, 2003: In November 2003, a patient with serious underlying medical conditions was admitted to a hospital in New York with respiratory symptoms. Subsequent confirmatory tests conducted in March 2004 showed that the patient had been infected with an H7N2 avian influenza virus.
- H5N1, Thailand and Vietnam, 2004: In January 2003, outbreaks of highly pathogenic influenza A (H5N1) in Asia were first reported by the World Health Organization. From December 30, 2003, to March 17, 2004, 12 confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) were reported in Thailand and 23 in Vietnam, resulting in a total of 23 deaths.
- H7N3 in Canada, 2004: In February 2004, human infections of H7N3 among poultry workers were associated with an H7N3 outbreak among poultry.
- H5N1, Thailand and Vietnam, 2004: Beginning in late June 2004, new outbreaks of H5N1 in poultry in Asia were followed by renewed sporadic reporting of human cases of H5N1 infection in Vietnam and Thailand beginning in August. Of particular note is one isolated instance of probable limited human-to-human transmission occurring in Thailand in September. Visit www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/asia.htm, <http://www.oie.int> and <http://www.who.int/en/> for more information.

Disease Reporting: suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases call 487-3186 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays and weekends).

White Powder Reporting: suspected white powder call 487-3162 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays, and weekends).